

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 02722 211937Z

66-61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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R 211854Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1767

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 2722

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMANN FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UY, US

SUBJ: CONGRESSMAN KOCH'S CHARGES

REF: STATE 169681 AND MONTEVIDEO 2341

1. I RECEIVED FROM HEW RYAN A COPY OF HIS RECENT LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN KOCH, BEARING NO DATE, BUT WHICH I ASSUME HAD BEEN SENT ABOUT MID-JULY. STATE 169681 SAID THIS WAS BEING SENT TO ALL ARA POSTS AND SAID THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST US WERE "COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED". WHILE I APPRECIATE THIS, I MUST SAY I AND MY COLLEAGUES ARE DIS-APPOINTED IN THE LETTER WHICH GIVES EVIDENCE OF HAVING BEEN SO CHOPPED UP BY MULTIPLE DRAFTERS AND CLEARERS THAT IT ENDS WITH LITTLE OR NO IMPACT. CERTAINLY IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A VERY NOTABLE REACTION TO A TOTALLY UNWARRANTED, UNINFORMED AND UNFAIR ATTACK ON THIS EMBASSY. ALSO, IT SAYS NOTHING WHATSOEVER ABOUT CONGRESSMAN KOCH'S RIDICULING OF OUR LABOR OFFICER WHO, ENTIRELY ON HIS OWN AND IN CONSULTATION WITH NO ONE, EXERCISED HIS CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIS OWN CONGRESSMAN ABOUT A MATTER ABOUT WHICH HE FELT DEEPLY.

2. IT SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE, THEREFORE, THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S LETTER APPARENTLY HAD NO EFFECT ON CONGRESSMAN KOCH. USINFO NOW REPORTS THE TEXT OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, PUBLISHED ON JULY 19, WHICH CHARGES THAT

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THIS EMBASSY "SHUNS THE IDEA THAT THERE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM

IN URUGUAY"--AND AGAIN RIDICULES THE LABOR ATTACHE FOR HIS PERSONAL VIEW.

3. IT IS THUS, UNFORTUNATELY, ALL TOO EVIDENT THAT CONGRESSMAN KOCH HAS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY BRIEFED ON THIS EMBASSY'S REPORTING OF HUMAN RIGHTS, OR ELSE THAT HE CHOOSES TO IGNORE THE FACTS GIVEN HIM AS HE PURSUES HIS OWN OBJECTIVES, WHATEVER THESE MAY BE. LIKEWISE, HE APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN TOLD, OR IF TOLD IGNORES THE FACT, THAT WE HAVE ASKED THAT HE BE INFORMED THAT THE LABOR ATTACHE'S LETTER WAS STRICTLY A REPRESENTATION OF HIS OWN VIEW, AND THAT HE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING HERE AND IN FACT HAS HAD LITTLE OR NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

4. IN LIGHT OF THESE COMMENTS, I ASK THE DEPARTMENT TO RECONSIDER MY PAST RECOMMENDATION. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT SINCE THE TRUTH WE SEEK TO EXPOSE IS IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS EMBASSY'S REPORTING, THE BEST WAY TO EXPOSE IT IS TO OPEN IT TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND AGAIN THAT THE REPORTS SPECIFIED IN MONTEVIDEO 2341 BE DECONTROLLED AND TOGETHER WITH THIS MESSAGE, BE REFERRED TO CONGRESSMAN KOCH AND/OR OTHERS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY ILLUSTRATES ALL TOO PAINFULLY HOW ARTFUL EXPLANATIONS FAIL WHERE THE SIMPLE AND WHOLE TRUTH WOULD HAVE SERVED SO WELL. SIRACUSA

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, EMBASSIES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONTEV02722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760281-0662
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760737/aaaabgfh.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 169681
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSMAN KOCH'S CHARGES
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006